



Afternoon Alert - Monday, September 12, 2016

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Several networks gave top coverage to remarks made this morning by a South Korean Defense Ministry spokesperson, who speculated that North Korea may carry out another nuclear test in the near future.

## ECONOMY

### Representatives of TPP member states rule out renegotiation

Nikkei, Sankei, and Jiji Press reported online that Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Ishihara met with the Tokyo-based ambassadors of the 12 TPP member states at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence this morning, quoting him as telling the press afterward: "We shared the consensus that renegotiating part of the agreement would upset the entire thing. The diplomats agreed that renegotiations are out of the question." Ishihara explained the GOJ's plan to enact the TPP legislation in the upcoming extraordinary Diet session. The participants agreed that each country should swiftly carry out domestic procedures for effectuating the regional free trade pact. According to the reports, the Ambassador told the assembled officials: "I'd like to underscore the importance of this critical agreement and to reinforce President Obama's commitment to obtaining congressional approval this year.... The trade and growth that are sustained by the TPP will strengthen security alliances and regional partnerships." NHK aired a similar story.

- [Mitsubishi jet back in the air for testing](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [MLIT to make application of IT mandatory in public works projects](#) (Nikkei)
- [BOJ to weigh different approach, but markets wonder what next](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Private-sector members of strategic zone council to call for partnering with regulatory reform council](#) (Nikkei)
- [Fukushima Prefecture to be model case in creating “hydrogen society”](#) (Yomiuri)

## INTERNATIONAL

### **Abe voices strong opposition to DPRK nuclear test**

All broadcasters reported that Prime Minister Abe delivered remarks at the Defense Ministry this morning, during which he commented on the recent nuclear test by North Korea by saying: “The North Koreans have carried out nuclear tests twice within just nine months. This is absolutely unacceptable. They have also fired numerous ballistic missiles into Japan’s exclusive economic zone. This is unprecedented.” He vowed to strengthen national defense to deal with North Korea’s provocations and China’s maritime operations in the Senkaku vicinity. Nikkei reported online that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told the press this morning North Korea may have already acquired technology to make nuclear weapons small enough to be mounted on ballistic missiles. NHK reported that the Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee plans to adopt a unanimous resolution condemning North Korea on Wednesday.

### **Defense officials of U.S., Japan, ROK discuss North Korea**

Sunday morning’s Mainichi reported that a director-general level trilateral videoconference by defense officials of the U.S., Japan, and South Korea was held on Saturday. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Magsamen reportedly expressed that the U.S. will firmly maintain the nuclear umbrella for Japan and South Korea and that any intimidation or attack by North Korea is unacceptable. Saturday morning’s Nikkei and Yomiuri also reported on the trilateral talks.

- [DPRK nuclear test timed to coincide with transition in U.S. administration](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Diet to adopt resolution condemning N. Korea for 5th nuclear test](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan-Russia to join hands in developing harsher response to DPRK](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abductions and lack of options make Japan’s unilateral sanctions difficult](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Commentary: Int’l community should confront nightmare of nuclear DPRK](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Int’l community must calmly handle North Korea threats](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Int’l community needs to pressure N. Korea to abandon nuclear tests](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan, Vietnam to strengthen agriculture cooperation](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japanese-Thai partnership to nurture startups](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Analysis: Chinese ships flocking to Senkakus reflect linkage of East, South China Sea issues](#) (BLOGOS)

## SECURITY

### **Local residents to seek injunction against helipad construction**

Okinawa Times wrote on Sunday that a group of local residents and their attorneys decided on Saturday to file a lawsuit with the Naha District Court against the GOJ to seek an injunction to stop the ongoing helipad construction in the Takae District in Higashi Village. Some 24 people have expressed their intention to become plaintiffs. They plan to file the case this weekend or later to argue that noise caused U.S. military aircraft and the risk of accidents would infringe on the human rights of local residents if the helipads are constructed as planned. The plaintiffs also plan to seek a provisional ruling on suspending the construction out of concern that the work may be completed before a final decision is made.

- **Defense structure needs revamp** (The Japan News)
- **MOFA says training of British military personnel within scope of Security Treaty** (Okinawa Times)

## AMBASSADOR

### **Ambassador encourages Japanese students to study in U.S.**

TBS reported on Sunday on a study abroad event hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on Saturday, during which the Ambassador called on Japanese high school and university students to study in the U.S. The network quoted the Ambassador as saying: "I hope that studying abroad will be the beginning of a journey that will change your life, and you will come back from the U.S. and tell everyone else what a great experience you had, and be ambassadors for Japan." The network said artist Frankie Cihi also talked about her experience studying art at a university in New York and stressed the importance of meeting people while studying abroad.

The network said since the number of Japanese studying in the U.S. has been on the decline since 1997, the governments of the U.S. and Japan are aiming to double the number of students studying in each other's country by 2020, adding that the Ambassador has been working hard toward that end. TV Asahi aired similar reports on Saturday, saying that the Ambassador called on young Japanese to study abroad by saying that it is "an investment in the future." Jiji carried a similar story, saying that the Ambassador stressed the importance of understanding the cultures of other nations in order to work together to address various global challenges. She also reportedly talked about how her own experience studying abroad gave her the courage to try new things.

## POLITICS

- **Prime minister's schedule on September 10** (Nikkei)
- **Prime minister's schedule on September 9** (Nikkei)
- **Komeito leader Yamaguchi's influence on Abe to be tested** (Asahi)
- **Tokyo had highest teen turnout rate at July Upper House election, gov't survey** (Yomiuri)

## SCIENCE

- [Season's first dolphins killed in annual hunt](#) (The Japan Times)

## EDUCATION

- [The need for effective English teachers](#) (The Japan Times)

## SOCIETY

- [Survey: 1 in 4 Japanese has wanted to take own lives in the past](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Colombian's memoir reveals deceptions that pulled her into Japan's sex trade in 1990s](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Slandering children in poverty cruel and counterproductive](#) (The Mainichi)

## TV PROGRAMS

### Experts discuss North Korea

Experts discussed North Korea in response to its nuclear test on Sept. 9, sharing the view that Kim Jong Un conducted the test in order to maintain his totalitarian regime by demonstrating his nation's nuclear force to the international community, especially the U.S. University of Tokyo Professor Fumiaki Kubo commented that the U.S. is apparently taking Pyongyang's latest nuclear test seriously, and Kanda University of International Studies Professor Ichiro Koroki said that China is taking an ambiguous position on international pressure on the DPRK because it feels that maintaining the Kim regime is preferable to creating turmoil by overthrowing it. Keio University Professor Tomoki Kamo said that China is concerned that enhanced cooperation between the U.S., Japan, and the ROK in response to North Korea is having an impact on the security balance in the region. All of the panelists stressed that China holds the key to international cooperation against North Korea. Kwansei Gakuin University Professor Shunji Hiraiwa commented that North Korea may take advantage of China's friction with the U.S. and South Korea over the THAAD deployment in the ROK.

### Series on "Mega Crises" – Part 2: Earthquake prediction

NHK's "NHK Special" on Sunday reported on the challenges faced by scientists in predicting major earthquakes in Japan. The program said while the Kumamoto earthquakes included two unexpected quakes with a seismic intensity of 7, some researchers said the risk of these quakes could have been predicted. It is reportedly becoming possible to predict earthquakes in a more precise manner using the latest scientific technologies, adding that there is an indication that major quakes could also occur in Nagano and Miyagi. The program also reported on the possibility of a Nankai Trough earthquake, saying that scientists predict that more than 320,000 people would be killed in such a

disaster. Increased frequency of “slow slip” earthquakes is reportedly one of the precursors of a major quake.

---

